CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A multiple target interactive interface system for use with a computer, the system comprising:

an interactive display having a plurality of user-selectable display areas associated with a plurality of computer operations;

a central-area associated with said interactive display;

at least one toolbar-region disposed radially outwardly from said central-area, wherein said toolbar-region defines a space for at least one of collecting and associating a plurality of target-icons;

wherein at least one target-icon associated with the plurality of target-icons is operable to initiate a computer operation associated with the plurality of computer operations when the target-icon is interactively selected by a user.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein said interactive display is a pop-up display that is displayed for user interaction in response to a predetermined command.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein the predetermined command is generated by the user.

4. The system of claim 2, wherein the predetermined command involves a predetermined action by the user, wherein the predetermined command is initiated from a selected input device.

5. The system of claim 4, wherein the selected input device includes at least one of a stylus, touch sensitive screen, touch pad, light pen, pointing device button strokes, keyboard keystroke, and combinations thereof.

6. The system of claim 2, wherein the predetermined command is generated automatically by the computer.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein said toolbar-region has specified:

a primary target-icon associated with the plurality of target icons, wherein said toolbar-region is interactively operable such that interactive selection of said toolbar-region by a first action initiates a first computer operation associated with the primary target-icon; and

a secondary target-icon associated with the plurality of target icons, wherein said toolbar-region is interactively operable such that interactive selection of said toolbar-region by a second action initiates a second computer operation associated with the secondary target-icon.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein the primary target-icon is presented with at least one first visual characteristic, wherein the secondary target-icon is presented with at least one second visual characteristic, and wherein at least one difference between the first visual characteristic and the second visual characteristic permits the user to distinguish the primary target-icon from the secondary target-icon when using interactive selection of said toolbar-region, wherein the first visual characteristic permits the user to identify the primary target icon, and wherein the second visual characteristic permits the user to identify the secondary target icon.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein said toolbar region has specified a plurality of standard target-icons, wherein the standard target-icons are presented with at least one third visual characteristic and wherein at least one difference between the third visual characteristic and the first visual characteristic permits the user to distinguish the standard target-icons from the primary target-icon when using interactive selection of the standard target-icons, wherein at least one difference between the third visual characteristic and the second visual characteristic permits the user to distinguish the standard target-icons from the secondary target-icon when using interactive selection of said toolbar-region, and wherein the third visual characteristic permits the user to identify the standard target icons.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein at least one of the first visual characteristic, second visual characteristic, and third visual characteristic corresponds to at least one of icon appearance, icon position, and icon location.

11. The system of claim 1, wherein a shape of the target-icon is influenced at least in part by a relative location of the toolbar-region associated with the target icon, wherein the relative location is relative to at least one other toolbar-region.

12. The system of claim 1, wherein the target icon is associated with a target group and wherein a shape of the target-icon is influenced at least in part by a position of the target-icon within the target-group.

13. The system of claim 1, wherein each target-icon has a shape,

wherein the shape of the target-icon is influenced by a relative location of the toolbar-region associated with the target icon, wherein the relative location is relative to at least one other toolbar-region,

wherein the target icon is associated with a target-group, and wherein the shape of the target-icon is influenced at least in part by a position of the target-icon within the target-group.

14. The system of claim 1, wherein an informative label is associated with the target-icon.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein the informative label is displayable at an option of at least one of the computer and the user.

16. The system of claim 1, wherein said central-area is graphically superimposed over an origin point, wherein said origin point is defined by a convergence of the tool-bar regions, wherein a center of the central area is coincident with the origin point, and wherein said toolbar-region includes an intermediate portion having edge boundaries that radially extend outwardly from said origin point.

17. The system of claim 1, wherein said computer generates a pointing device cursor, and wherein said central-area is superimposed over an origin point near which said cursor is closely constrained when said interactive display is first engaged.

18. The system of claim 1, wherein said central-area is subdivided into plural, functionally distinct, sub-areas each associated with a different computer operation.

19. The system of claim 1 wherein said central-area is dynamically generated based on rules designed to reduce physical effort.

20. The system of claim 18, wherein a sub-area of said central-area has associated functionality to allow the user to exit from a current control subsystem activation.

21. The system of claim 18, wherein a sub-area of said central-area has associated functionality to allow the user to redisplay a selected ancestor of a current toolbar, wherein the current toolbar is the toolbar that is currently displayed.

22. The system of claim 18, wherein a sub-area of said central-area has associated functionality to allow the user to define customized operations.